

CALDWELL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD POLICY	Students	3100
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ENROLLMENT OF STUDENTS

Pursuant to N.C. General Statutes, all children between the ages of seven and sixteen must be enrolled in a public school, a private school, or a home-school that is properly registered with the Division of Non-Public Education. Children who reach the age of five on or before August 31 of a school year may enroll at the beginning of that school year in public school kindergarten effective with the 2009-2010 school year. A student who was legally enrolled in kindergarten in another school system may enroll regardless of age. Enrollment typically takes place in the school serving the domicile of the student's parents. Domicile generally is defined as the primary residence of the child's parents or guardians. Board Policy 3110 defines domicile for special circumstances.

In 1997, the General Assembly passed legislation allowing a child who has reached his or her fourth birthday by April 16 to enter kindergarten if he or she demonstrates an extraordinary level of academic ability and maturity. The decision of the principal concerning eligibility to enroll is final. The specific requirements and process involved are described in the Caldwell County Schools Administrative Manual and referenced in the Caldwell County Schools Local Plan for Gifted Education.

Except for "homeless" children as defined below, upon initial enrollment in the Caldwell County Schools, the parent, guardian or legal custodian must provide:

1. Verification of birth date by a birth certificate or other satisfactory evidence;
2. Immunization and physical examination records;
3. Personal and emergency information requested by the school;
4. Proof of domicile in the district; and
5. A statement under oath or affirmation that the child is not under a term of suspension or expulsion from another school, no matter the location.

Children who do not have adequate, fixed, regular, nighttime residence due to extreme poverty are considered "homeless" under federal law and may enroll at the school serving the district where their temporary housing is located, or maintain their "school of origin" if practicable. Such children must, however, comply with number three and number five stated above.

Handicapped children who meet eligibility requirements and who have attained their third birthday may enroll in educational programs or receive services for which they qualify. All eligible children may continue to receive special education and related services until they graduate, receive a Certificate of Attendance, or attain the age of 22. Students who reach their 22nd birthday during the school year may be served for the entire school year.

Persons over age 16 and under age 21 who wish to reenroll in high school must do so within five (5) days of the start of the semester unless sickness or other unavoidable cause, as determined by the principal, prevents such reenrollment. Former students who dropped out the preceding school year may enroll at their home high school or at the Gateway Alternative School. Former high school students who have been out of school for more than one year or who have been suspended long term, may reenroll only at the Gateway Alternative School. Such students also may enroll in the Adult High School or the GED Program operated by the Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute upon approval of the principal and superintendent.

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Students who reach 18 years of age become legally responsible for their own actions and may enroll in the school serving their domicile. However, parents/guardians will continue to be notified of student progress and any problem/concern unless the student notifies the school in writing. Students who are 18 years of age or older must continue to adhere to all policies and regulations established by school authorities.

Enrollment of Non-Domiciliary Students

Students whose legal domicile is outside of Caldwell County and who plan to live with someone in Caldwell County who is not their parent or legal guardian, will not be admitted unless 1) they meet the statutory provisions below or 2) the process of securing court approved legal custodianship has been initiated with an attorney. This process must be completed within 60 calendar days unless extended by the superintendent.

The requirements above also apply whenever a student's parent or legal guardian lives in Caldwell County and that student wants to live with relatives or others in another attendance district where the school is full and closed to transfers. Additionally, when a student is placed in or assigned to a licensed facility located in the administrative unit and the student's parent or legal guardian retains legal custody, the statutory provisions listed below must be met.

Provisions for Enrolling Non-Domiciliary Students Specified Under State Law

A non-domiciliary student may enroll if the student is residing with an adult, who is a domiciliary of Caldwell County, *as a result of*:

1. The death, serious illness, or incarceration of a parent or legal guardian;
2. The abandonment by a parent or legal guardian of the complete control of the student as evidenced by the failure to provide substantial financial support and parental guidance;
3. Abuse or neglect by the parent or legal guardian;
4. The physical or mental condition of the parent or legal guardian, which prevents him/her from providing adequate care and supervision of the student;
5. The relinquishment of physical custody and control of the student by the student's parent or legal guardian upon the recommendation of the Department of Social Services or the Division of Mental Health; or,
6. The loss or inhabitability of the student's home as the result of a natural disaster.

Under the circumstances listed in 1- 6 above, in order to enroll the child the adult with whom the student resides and the student's parent, guardian or legal custodian must complete and sign separate affidavits in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 115C-366 which confirm the qualifications set out in sub-paragraphs 1-6 above; attest the student's claim of residency in Caldwell County is not primarily related to attendance at a particular school within the county; and attest that the adult with whom the student is residing has been given and accepts responsibility for educational decisions for the child as stated in the above statute.

References:
NCGS 115C-39, 364,366, 378
ESEA, Title X, Part C
House Bill 150 - 2008

Adopted: August 14, 1995
Revised: April 6, 1998
Revised: August 10, 1998
Revised: November 11, 2002
Revised: September 8, 2008
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